

**TOWN OF DAVIE**  
**HOBBY FARM RECOGNITION WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**MAY 3, 2017**

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present at the meeting were Mayor Paul, Vice-Mayor Luis and Councilmembers Caletka, Hattan and Starkey. Also present were Town Administrator Lemack, Deputy Town Administrator Lewis, Town Attorney Rayson, Assistant Town Administrator Holste and Town Clerk Roig recording the meeting.

**3. HOBBY FARM RECOGNITION**

David Quigley, Planning and Zoning Manager, said the Agriculture and Environmental Committee had passed a motion asking Council to implement a system to track hobby farmers, using the existing application, with the approved owners receiving notification and an official looking document.

Mr. Quigley compared Florida Statutes and Town Code and criteria. He said the farm criteria adopted by the Town in 2001 was based on the Property Appraiser's criteria for a bona fide farm and were meant to distinguish an owner's intent to put farmland to commercial use. The hobby farm provision adopted in 2003 was adopted to protect hobby farms that already existed at the time and granted protections from nuisance provisions. Mr. Quigley explained that the problem with this language was that no one was certain if a particular hobby farm was protected or not.

Mr. Quigley recommended a code amendment to merge the farm determination and hobby farm provision into a single hobby farm provision and to refine the criteria to address the Town's current goals and needs. Mr. Quigley stated the farm determination program had been run by Code compliance for many years. He recommended shifting it to Planning and Zoning, which would be responsible for:

- Processing the applications
- Making the determinations
- Providing "Hobby Farm" signs to approved properties
- Maintaining electronic records
- Updating the appropriate boards and committees
- Training staff
- Updating the Davie Farm Guide

Mayor Paul said they could write a letter to send to those with existing designations informing them of the new criteria and stating they could continue as a hobby farm, accompanied by the sign.

Councilmember Starkey asked if there would be some form of inspections to ensure properties continued to meet the criteria. Mr. Quigley noted that the designation only protected operators from nuisance claims. Councilmember Starkey stated there were best practices regarding the number of animals on a site. She was concerned about a property that "may be wanting to hide under the auspices" of the designation. Mr. Quigley explained that they would not issue the certificate to a property with ongoing code violations. He felt it would not be feasible to try to regulate the number of animals, other than what was already in the code.

Mayor Paul stated if someone complained about large manure piles or landscape debris, the Town could check to see if the owner was following best management practices. Councilmember Starkey wanted to be able to take away the hobby farm designation if a property was not meeting best management practices or was violating Town code. Councilmember Caletka said the designation did not provide any protections; owners must still follow the code and be good neighbors. He felt people seeking designation wanted it for recognition.

Mr. Quigley agreed to work on an ordinance for Council to consider.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor/Councilmember

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Town Clerk